

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DPET FOR EUR/RPM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR COMPROMISE ON STAGE III DATE

1. AT NATO HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING ON JULY 1, INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVES REFLECTED INCREASING DISCOMFORT WITH INABILITY OF CONFERENCE TO MOVE EITHER TOWARD SOLUTION OF MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES OR TO AGREEMENT ON STAGE III DATE. AS IN RECENT DAYS, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR (ANDRE) WAS MOST OUTSPOKEN ON NEED TO REACH SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE QUESTION OF TIMING. HE PROPOSED WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS A "MIDDLE COURSE" AS A MEANS OF RECOILING THE TWO POSITIONS AND ASKED NATO REPS TO RECOMMEND HIS PROPOSAL TO THEIR AUTHORITIES.

2. FRENCH PROPOSAL IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. NATO COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE AT THE JULY 3 COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO HOLD STAGE III ON JULY 28, BUT WOULD RE-
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SERVE THE RIGHT TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION WITHIN TEN

DAYS IF, IN THE MEANTIME, SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAD NOT
BEEN ACHIEVED ON IMPORTANT ISSUES.

B. THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ASKED TO COMMENCE
PREPARATIONS FOR STAGE III ON THE BASIS ON THIS TENTATIVE
AGREEMENT.

C. IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE FINNS FROM UNJUSTIFIED
FINANCIAL BURDENS, ALL PARTICIPANTS WOULD AGREE TO SHARE
COSTS INCURRED IN HELSINKI IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT
THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT TO MEET ON JULY 28 WAS ABROGATED
DUE TO LACK OF PROGRESS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

3. SEVERAL REPS WELCMED ANDRE'S PROPOSAL AS AN IMAGINATIVE
APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. A NUMBER, INCLUDING THE CANADAIN,
ITALIAN, DANISH AND NORWEGIAN REPS SAID HEY WOULD RECOM-
MEND IT POSITIVELY TO THEIR AUTHORITIES, ALTHOUGH MOST
DOUBTED THEY WULD RECEIVE APPROVAL IN TIME FOR THE JULY
3 COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING. ANOTHER GROUP COMPOSED
OF THE FRG, DUTCH, TURKISH AND PORTUGUESE REPS SAID THEY

COULD NOT RECOMMEND IT POSITIVELY SINCE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS
WERE FIRM ON THE NEED TO HAVE CONCRETE PROGRESS ON IM-
PORTANT ISSUES BEFORE THE DATE COULD BE SET.

4. THE UK REP THOUGHT AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE FRENCH IDEA
WOULD BE TO PRESENT A SPECIFIC LIST OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES
AND TO AGREE TO SET A DATE FOR STAGE III IF THOSE ISSUES
WERE SETTLED IN A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, SAY ONE
WEEK OR TEN DAYS. ALTHOUGH THIS IDEA DREW SOME SUPPORT,
IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT EVEN THE ALLIANCE COUNTRIES
WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME AGREEING AMONG THEMSELVES ON
A LIST OF ISSUES TO PRESENT. IF SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF
THE NEUTRALS WERE INCLUDED, THE LIST WOULD BECOME MUCH
TOO LONG, IF AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED AT ALL.

5. DISCUSSION OF TIMING CONCLUDED WITH A REPEATED RE-
QUEST BY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR FOR SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT
OF HIS PROPOSAL BY DELEGATIONS AND THEIR AUTHOR-
ITIES.

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6. COMMENT: US REP PROMISED TO REPORT THE FRENCH
PROPOSAL, BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT ON THE IDEA ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER. WE DOUBT IF SUCH AN IDEA WOULD BE FEASIBLE
UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT A CON-
SENSUS CAN BE ACHIEVED AMONG NATO COUNTRIES TO PUT FOR-
WARD THE PROPOSAL OR, EVEN IF AGREEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED
WITHIN NATO, THAT THE PROCEDURE WOULD ACTUALLY FACILITATE

PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS. WE
EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO CONTINUE PRESENT TACTICS AT LEAST
UNTIL THE JULY 3 SESSION OF THE COORDINATING OMMITTEE
AND SEE NO REASON FOR REDUCING THE COUNTER PRESSURE FOR
SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES BEFORE THAT TIME. DEPART-
MENTS COMMENTS REQUESTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DALE

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